

Mr. Speaker, I am troubled and disappointed that this duplicative and needless resolution reaffirming ``In God We Trust" as the official motto of the United States is being considered today. It is a solution in search of a problem and it comes at the cost of addressing the jobs crisis in our country. With 25 million people out of work, job creation must be our top priority and we should be working every day to help get Americans back to work.

Does anyone seriously believe that ``In God We Trust" has come under attack? It is my experience that the American people do not need to be told to respect the symbols of our nation and our national motto. They already do. Some have raised questions about whether the national motto violates the First Amendment protections against the establishment of religion. Supreme Court Justice Brennan answered those concerns when he said, ``The truth is that we have simply interwoven the motto so deeply into the fabric of our civil polity that its present use may well not present that type of involvement which the First Amendment prohibits."

Finally, one of my constituents wrote to remind me prior to 1956 ``E pluribus unum" or ``Out of many, one" was the de facto motto of the United States. I can't help but wonder whether it wouldn't be a better motto again today. As we face great challenges, we should always remember that we are all in this together.